

helpful to us in helping those discussions facilitate to the point where a unique tier was not needed. But they indicated further that they needed three things exempted from the lid. One of those was special education. We've already done that. The second one is growth that we're considering now. Third one was recognition for ongoing contracts. Lincoln Public Schools, as I understand it, has negotiated a multi-year contract and will be faced with implementing that multi-year contract during the same time as this lid comes into effect. We've given on the special education and I think that was the right, rational thing to do. We...I, at least for my vote, I'm going to support the upcoming amendment which is the Ashford amendment that deals with multi-year contracts because I think there is a strong rationale for that. There is also a rationale for the growth concept, but it's one of those sort of things that once the growth door is opened, and my district is a growth district, we're facing bond issues, we're facing new buildings, we're facing all of those kind of things, once you open that door then there are lots of other things out there, transportation, health care costs, any other sort of things that you can begin your laundry list of exempting things from the lid, and I'm afraid of beginning that process unless we have incredibly strong rationale for exempting that and so far the types of exemptions from the lid that we have adopted I believe are those where an individual school district may be negatively impacted different from any other. Senator Byars' district gives a court order to pay back money. Special education, a district happens to have more special education kids move into that district. The growth thing, arguably, is maybe a little more speci...is not, I don't think as specific. It is one that tends to open up the lid a little further than I'd like to see it. I'd prefer to stick with what we did with special ed, maybe consider strongly the Ashford amendment, but...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...I think I agree with Senator Moore on this one, that this opens it up just a touch too far. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schimek, please, followed by Senator Wesely and Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President and members of the body, like Senator Withem, I, too, have a little bit of difficulty with this issue because I recognize the political reality of asking